

AGN. NO.

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND
MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

JUNE 9, 2015

Shifting the Sheriff's Medical Services Bureau Budget to the Department of Health Services

The County of Los Angeles (County) currently allocates approximately \$330 million and over 2,000 positions per year on health, mental health, and public health services to the roughly 17,500 inmates housed in County jails. Of this amount, \$238 million and over 1,700 budgeted positions are allocated to the Sheriff's Medical Services Bureau (MSB). Los Angeles County is the only county in California in which the Sheriff's Department runs its own health care system.

For more than two years, the County has declared it a top priority to improve the quality, coordination, and delivery of care provided to the County's inmate population. On March 26, 2013, the Board of Supervisors (Board) directed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Auditor-Controller to create a separate budget unit for the MSB to improve fiscal accountability, transparency, workload data collection and budgetary management and control.

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On January 13, 2015, the Board directed the Interim CEO, the Sheriff's Department and other relevant departments to consider including the Sheriff's Department's MSB in the broader County health department agency consolidation efforts.

On March 3, 2015, the Board directed the Interim CEO, the Sheriff's Department and relevant departments to report back on the status of the County's jail health services and to include a proposed approach to improve the overall quality and delivery of care.

The resulting June 9, 2015 Board letter prepared by the Interim CEO, with input from the Sheriff, and Directors of the Departments of Health, Mental Health and Public Health, provides a roadmap for dramatically improving the quality and efficacy of health care services provided to the County's inmate population. Among other things, it would create a single, integrated jail health services operation that consolidates the currently separate jail health services functions under a single Correctional Health Director within the Department of Health Services. The new proposed structure would:

- a) emphasize primary and preventive care;
- b) build substance abuse services;
- c) enhance jail mental health;
- d) improve operational efficacy;
- e) improve recruitment, retention and training of qualified staff;
- f) improve access to care and quality;

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- g) improve clinical space and procurement; and
- h) enhance discharge and reentry planning.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Adopt the eight recommendations within the June 9, 2015 Interim Chief Executive Officer's Board letter, including timeline, to create a single, integrated jail health organizational structure and shift the entire Sheriff's Department Medical Services Bureau budget, including positions and Department of Mental Health staff services to the Department of Health Services; and
2. Direct the Interim Chief Executive Officer to report back in writing in 90 days with recommendations on how to capture anticipated savings, if any, achieved through this new model and identify opportunities to reinvest any savings in jail health services and evidence-based diversion and re-entry programs, including drug treatment programs.

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